



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Pleads Guilty to Murder in Death of Stepdaughter

WASHINGTON - Earlier today, Felipe Caceres, 46, of the District of Columbia, pled guilty to Second Degree Murder before Judge Frederick Weisberg in Superior Court, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips. Sentencing is scheduled for November 13, 2009.

According to evidence introduced at the plea hearing, on July 29, 2008, at approximately 1:25 p.m., members of the Metropolitan Police Department and the District of Columbia Emergency Medical Services were called to 60 Hawaii Avenue, NE, Apartment #204, for the report of an unconscious 12-year-old girl. Death was immediately apparent upon the investigators' arrival, and the Chief Medical Examiner's Office was summoned. A subsequent autopsy was conducted on the 12-year-old girl by Deputy Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Carolyn Revercomb, who ruled the cause of death to be asphyxiation due to pressure on the neck – in other words, strangulation – and the manner of death homicide.

Subsequent investigation revealed that on the morning of July 29, 2008, at about 8:50 a.m., Felipe Caceres was in the above listed apartment with his two stepdaughters. The defendant was aware that his wife and 16-year-old stepdaughter would be leaving the apartment for a doctor's appointment that morning. He was also aware that his 12-year-old stepdaughter had told her mother that she would remain at home. At around 8:50 a.m., the defendant told his wife that he was leaving for work and left the apartment. However, shortly after leaving the apartment, he telephoned his employer and informed him that he was going to be late for work. Cell tower records indicate that the calls to the defendant's employer were made from an area in close proximity to the defendant's apartment. A short time after that phone call, the defendant re-entered the apartment, where he beat and strangled his 12-year-old stepdaughter, causing the injuries observed by Dr. Revercomb that caused the girl's death.

The defendant telephoned his employer again at approximately 12:12 p.m. and stated that he was not coming back to work. The defendant sounded distraught, and told his employer that he was afraid that the employer would think badly of the defendant for something he had done.

In announcing today's plea, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the investigative efforts of Lead Detective Carlos Hilliard of MPD's Homicide Special Victims Unit, as well as

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Detectives Robert Jackson, Eduardo Voysest, and Gina Powell, Sergeant Robert Parker, and Technicians Pamela Cooper, Natasha Pettus, Ralph Nitz and Charles Egan of the Metropolitan Police Forensic Service Division. He also commended Marcia Rinker of the Victim Witness Assistance Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Paralegal Specialist Sandra Lane, and Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. Soroka of the Homicide Section who prosecuted the case.

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